

Protect FCC Title II classification of Internet Service Providers

I am an artificial intelligence researcher holding a Ph.D. in computer science, and I work at a technology company for which equal internet access is critical to our success and my livelihood. I am familiar both with the technological issues and financial incentives involved in last-mile internet service delivery, and I am frankly aghast at the possibility that ISPs would no longer be required to uphold network neutrality.

This affects me personally in several ways:

* As an employee at a smaller technology company, paying for last-mile delivery would affect our business model and therefore my own livelihood. Moreover, the costs of negotiating and legally vetting contracts with each of the various last-mile internet providers in addition to our own ISPs would be a significant burden.

* As a consumer, my internet access to, e.g. Netflix, has been throttled, despite my paying in full for the bandwidth from my ISP. I have only two ISP choices, both of which also provide (over-priced) streaming content in competition with services such as Netflix. There is simply not sufficient competition in my neighborhood to allow ISPs to double-charge both myself and my content providers and “let the market sort it out.” Indeed, ISPs are strongly incentivised to charge my content providers in order to unfairly disadvantage them relative to the ISPs own offerings. This is unfair competition, which benefits neither myself nor the content providers I use.

I strongly urge you to protect the FCC Title II classification of ISPs.